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Group A.U.: 2731

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, which is a division of application serial no. 09/131,095 filed August 7, 1998, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-75 and substitute therefor new claims 76-145 set forth below.

--76. (New) An information signal recording/reproducing

system using a recording medium having formed thereon an area different from an area for recording information signals and in which medium-related information is recorded or having a unit accompanying the recording medium in which the medium-related information is recorded and including a recording device for recording the information signals on the recording medium and a reproducing device for reproducing the information signals recorded on the recording medium,

the recording device comprising:

recording-side medium-related reading means for reading the medium-related information from one of the recording medium and the unit accompanying the recording medium;

information adding means for adding the medium-related information read by the recording-side medium-related information reading means to the information signals; and

recording means for recording the information signals to which the medium-related information has been added by the information adding means on the recording medium;

the reproducing device comprising:

reproducing-side medium-related information reading means for reading the medium-related information from one of the recording medium and the unit accompanying the recording medium;

information signal reading means for reading the information signals from the recording medium;

detecting means for detecting the medium-related information

added to the information signals in the information signals read by the information signal reading means;

determining means for determining whether the medium-related information from the reproducing-side medium-related information from the reproducing-side medium-related information reading means is consistent with the medium-related information detected by the detecting means; and

control means for prohibiting the reproduction of the information signals if the medium-related information from the reproducing-side medium-related information reading means is not consistent with the medium-related information detected by the detecting means, wherein

said information adding means comprises

means for providing first code, and

means for superimposing the medium-related information from the recording-side medium-related information reading means using said first code, and

said detecting means comprises

means for providing second code for providing code identical with said first code, and

means for detecting the medium-related information superimposed on the information signal by processing a detecting process using said second code.

--77. (New) An information signal reproducing device for

reproducing information signals to which medium-related information has been added and which are recorded on a recording medium having formed thereon an area different from an area for recording the information signals and in which the medium-related information is recorded or having a unit accompanying the recording medium in which the medium-related information is recorded, the reproducing device comprising:

medium-related information reading means for reading the medium-related information from one of the recording medium and the unit accompanying the recording medium;

information signal reading means for reading the information signals from the recording medium;

detecting means for detecting the medium-related information added to the information signals read by the information signal reading means;

determining means for determining whether the medium-related information from the reproducing-side medium-related information reading means is consistent with the medium-related information detected by the detecting means; and

control means for prohibiting the reproduction of the information from the reproducing side medium-related information reading means is not consistent with the medium-related information detected by the detecting means, wherein the medium-related information added to the information signals is superimposed on the information signals using a first code, and

said detecting means comprises
 means for providing second code identical with said first
 code, and
 means for detecting the medium-related information
 superimposed on the information signal by processing a detecting
 process using said second code.

--78. (New) An information signal recording/reproducing
 system having a recording device for recording information
 signals on a recording medium and a reproducing device for
 reproducing the information signals recorded on the recording
 medium,

the recording device comprising:

a recording-side device-related information obtaining means
 for obtaining device-related information related to a recording
 device for recording the information signals;

information adding means for adding the device-related
 information obtained by the recording-side device-related
 information obtaining means to the information signals;

recording means for recording the information signals to
 which the device-related information has been added by the
 information adding means on the recording medium; and

the reproducing device comprising:

reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means
 for obtaining device-related information related to a reproducing

device for reproducing the information signals;

information signal reading means for reading the information signals from the recording medium;

detecting means for detecting the device-related information added to the information signs from the information signal reading means;

determining means for determining whether the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means is consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting means; and

reproducing control means for controlling reproduction of the information signals only when the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means is consistent with the device-related information from the detecting means, wherein

said information adding means comprises

means for providing first code, and

means for superimposing the device-related information from the recording-side device-related information obtaining means using said first code, and

said detecting means comprises

means for providing second code for providing code identical with said first code, and

means for detecting the device-related information superimposed on the information signal by processing a detecting

process using said second code.

--79. (New) An information signal reproducing device for reproducing information signals to which device-related information related to a recording device has been added and which are recorded on a recording medium, the reproducing device comprising:

reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means for obtaining device-related information related to the reproducing device for reproducing information signals;

information signal reading means for reading the information signals from the recording medium;

detecting means for detecting the device-related information added to the information signals from the information signal reading means;

determining means for determining whether the device-related information from the device-related information obtaining means is consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting means; and

reproducing control means for controlling reproduction of the information signals only when the determining means indicates that the device-related information from the device-related information obtaining means is consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting means, wherein the device-related information added to the information signals is

superimposed on the information signals using a first code, and
 said detecting means comprises
 means for providing second code for providing code identical
 with said first code and
 means for detecting the device-related information
 superimposed on the information signal by processing a detecting
 process using said second code.

--80. (New) An information signal processing system having a
 output device for output information signals and a reproducing
 device for reproducing the information signals

the output device comprising:

an output-side device-related information obtaining means
 for obtaining device-related information related to the output
 device

information adding means for adding the device-related
 information obtained by the output-side device-related
 information obtaining means to the information signals;

output means for outputting the information signals to which
 the device-related information has been added by the
 information adding means; and

the reproducing device comprising:

reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means
 for obtaining device-related information related to the
 reproducing device for reproducing the information signals;

information signal input means for inputting the information signals;

detecting means for determining whether the device-related information added to the information signals from the information signal input means;

determining means for detecting the device-related information added to the information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means is consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting means; and

control means for prohibiting the reproduction of the information signals if the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting means.

--81. (New) The information signal processing system according to claim 80, wherein the output device further comprises recording-side auxiliary recording medium setting means into which an auxiliary recording medium is set, and wherein

the output-side device-related information obtaining means comprises means for obtaining the device-related information from the auxiliary recording medium set into the output-side auxiliary recording medium setting means, and

the reproducing device further comprises reproducing-side auxiliary recording medium setting means into which the auxiliary

recording medium is set, wherein

the reproducing-side medium-related information obtaining means comprises means for obtaining the device-related information from the auxiliary recording medium set into the reproducing-side auxiliary recording medium setting means.

--82. (New) The information signal processing system according to claim 80, wherein the output device further comprises spreading means for spectrum-spreading the device-related information from the output-side device-related information obtaining means, wherein

the information adding means in the output device comprises means for superimposing the device-related information spectrum-spread by means of the spreading means on the information signals to be output, and

the detecting means in the reproducing device section comprises means for picking up the device-related information spectrum-spread and superimposed on the information signals by inverse spectrum-spreading.

--83. (New) The information signal processing system according to claim 80, wherein the output device further comprises signal level converting means for converting the device-related information from the output-side device-related information obtaining means into a minute level signal, wherein

the information adding means comprises means for adding the device-related information converted into the minute level signal by the signal level converting means to the information signals to be output, and

the detecting means in the reproducing device comprises means for picking up device-related information added to the information signals, as the minute level signal.

--84. (New) The information signal processing system according to claim 80, wherein the output device further comprises enciphering means for enciphering the device-related information from the output-side device-related information obtaining means, wherein

the information adding means in the output device comprises means for adding the device-related information enciphered by the enciphering means to the information signals to be output, and

the detecting means in the reproducing device comprises means for extracting and decoding the device-related information enciphered and added to the information signals, so as to pick up the device-related information added to the information signals.

--85. (New) The information signal processing system according to claim 80, wherein the reproducing device further comprises information signal preventing means for preventing the information signals from being output when the determined result

from the determining means indicates that the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting means.

--86. (New) The information signal processing system according to claim 80, wherein the reproducing device further comprises informing means for informing a user that the information signals are not output when the determined result from the determining means indicates that the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting means.

--87. (New) The information signal processing system according to claim 80, wherein

- said information adding means comprises
- means for providing first code, and
- means for superimposing the device-related information from the output-side device-related information obtaining means using said first code, and
- said detecting means comprises
- means for providing second code for providing code identical with said first code, and
- means for detecting the device-related information

superimposed on the information signal by processing a detecting process using said second code.

--88. (New) An information signal processing system having an output device for outputting information signals and a reproducing device for reproducing the information signals,

the output device comprising:

output-side device-related information obtaining means for obtaining device-related information related to the output device;

additional information conversion means for converting additional information on the basis of the device-related information from the output-side device-related information obtaining means ;

information adding means for adding the additional information signals to which the additional information is added by the information adding means; and

output means for outputting the information signals to which the additional information is added by the information adding means; and

the reproducing device comprising:

reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means for obtaining device-related information related to the reproducing device for reproducing the information signals;

information signal input means for inputting the information

signals;

additional information detecting means for detecting the additional information added to the information signals from the information signal input means, on the basis of the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means; and

control means for prohibiting the reproduction of the information signals if the additional information added to the information signals is not detected by the additional information detecting means.

--89. (New) The information signal processing system according to claim 88, wherein the output device further comprises output-side auxiliary output device setting means into which an auxiliary output device is set, wherein

the output-side device-related information obtaining means comprises means for obtaining the device-related information from the auxiliary output device set into the output-side auxiliary output device setting means, and

the reproducing device comprises reproducing-side auxiliary output device setting means into which the auxiliary output device is set, and

the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means comprises means for obtaining the device-related information from the auxiliary output device set into the reproducing-side auxiliary output device setting means.

--90. (New) The information signal processing system according to claim 88, wherein the additional information conversion means in the output device comprises means for using the device-related information from the output-side device-related information obtaining means as an enciphering key so as to generate the additional information, and wherein

the additional information detecting means in the reproducing device comprises means for detecting the additional information added to the information signals from the information signal reading means by using the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means as a decoding key to carry out decoding.

--91. (New) The information signal processing system according to claim 88, wherein the reproducing device further comprises information signal blocking means for blocking output of the information signals when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals by the additional information detecting means.

--92. (New) The information signal processing system according to claim 88, wherein the reproducing device further comprises informing means for informing a user that the information signals are not reproduced when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals by

the additional information detecting means.

--93. (New) An information signal reproducing device for reproducing information signals to which device-related information has been added, the reproducing device comprising:

device-related information obtaining means for obtaining device-related information related to the reproducing device for reproducing the information signals;

information signal input means for inputting the information signals;

detecting means for detecting the device-related information added to the information signals from the information signal input means;

determining means for determining whether the device-related information from the device-related information obtaining means is consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting means; and

control step of prohibiting the reproduction of the information signals if the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting means.

--94. (New) The information signal reproducing device according to claim 93, further comprising auxiliary means for

setting auxiliary device-related information, wherein
the device-related information obtaining means
comprises means for obtaining the auxiliary device-related
information set by the auxiliary means.

--95. (New) The information signal reproducing device
according to claim 93, wherein the device-related information
added to the information signals is spectrum-spread and
superimposed on the information signals, and wherein
the detecting means comprises means for picking up the
device-related information spectrum-spread and superimposed on
the information signals by inverse spectrum-spreading.

--96. (New) The information signal reproducing device
according to claim 93, wherein the device-related information
added to the information signals is added as a minute level
signal and

the detecting means comprises means for picking up
device-related information added to the information signals as
the minute level signal.

--97. (New) The information signal reproducing device
according to claim 93, wherein the additional information added
to the information signals is enciphered and added to the
information signals, and wherein

the detecting means comprises means for extracting and decoding the device-related information enciphered and added to the information signals, so as to pickup the device-related information added to the information signals.

--98. (New) The information signal reproducing device according to claim 93, further comprising information signal blocking means for blocking the reproduction of the information signals when the determined result from the determining means indicates that the device-related information from the device-related information obtaining means is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting means.

--99. (New) The information signal reproducing device according to claim 93, further comprising informing means for informing a user that the information signals are not reproduced when the determined result from the determining means indicates that the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining means is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting means.

--100. (New) The information signal reproducing device according to claim 93, wherein the device-related information added to the information signals is superimposed on the information signals using a first code, and

said detecting means comprises
means for providing second code for providing code identical
with said first code, and
means for detecting the device-related information
superimposed on the information signal by processing a detecting
process using said second code.

--101. (New) An information signal reproducing device for
reproducing information signals to which device-related
information has been added and which are recorded on a recording
medium, the reproducing device comprising:

device-related information obtaining means for obtaining the
device-related information related to the reproducing device for
recording the information signals;

information signal reading means for reading the information
signals from the recording medium;

additional information detecting means for detecting the
additional information added to the information signals from the
information signal reading means on the basis of the device-
related information obtained by the device-related information
obtaining means; and

control means for prohibiting the reproduction of the
information signals if the additional information added to the
information signals is not detected by the additional information
detecting means.

--102. (New) The information signal reproducing device according to claim 101, further comprising auxiliary recording medium setting means into which an auxiliary recording medium is set, wherein

the device-related information obtaining means comprises means for obtaining the device-related information from the auxiliary recording medium set into the recording-side auxiliary recording medium setting means.

--103. (New) The information signal reproducing device according to claim 101, wherein the additional information added to the information signals is generated by using the device-related information as an enciphering key to carry out enciphering, and wherein

the additional information detecting means comprises means for detecting the additional information added to the information signals from the information signals reading means by using the device-related information from the device-related information obtaining means as a decoding key to carry out decoding.

--104. (New) The information signal reproducing device according to claim 101, further comprising information signal erasing means for erasing the information signals recorded on the recording medium when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals by the additional

--105. (New) The information signal reproducing device according to claim 101, further comprising informing means for informing a user that the information signals are not reproduced when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals by the additional information detecting means.

a medium-related information reading step of reading the medium-related information from one of the recording medium and the unit accompanying the recording medium;

a detecting step of detecting the medium-related information added to the information signals in the information signals read by the information signal reading step;

a determining step of determining whether the medium-related information from the reproducing-side medium-related information reading step is consistent with the medium-related information detected by the detecting step; and

a controlling step of prohibiting the reproduction of the information signals if the medium-related information from the reproducing side medium-related information reading step is not consistent with the medium-related information detected by the detecting step.

--107. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 106, wherein the medium-related information added to the information signals is spectrum-spread and superimposed on the information signals, and

the detecting step comprises picking up the medium-related information that has been spectrum-spread and superimposed on the information signals by performing inverse spectrum-spreading.

--108. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 106, wherein the medium-related information added to the information signals is added as a minute level signal, and

the detecting step comprises picking up the medium-related information added to the information signals as the minute signals.

--108. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 106, wherein the media-related information added to the information signals is enciphered so as to be added to the information signals, and

the detecting step comprises picking up the medium-related information added to the information signals by extracting and decoding the medium-related information enciphered and added to the information signals.

--109. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 106, further comprising an information signal erasing step of erasing the information signals recorded on the recording medium when the determined result from the determining step indicates that the medium-related information from the medium-related information reading step is not consistent with the medium-related information detected by the detecting step.

--110. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 106, further comprising an informing step of informing a user that the information signals are not reproduced when the determined result from the determining step indicates that the medium-related information from the medium-related information reading step is not consistent with the medium-related information detected by the detecting step.

--111. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 106, wherein the medium-related information added to the information signals is superimposed on the information signals using a first code, and

said step of detecting comprises

providing second code identical with said first code, and

detecting the medium-related information superimposed on the information signal by processing a detecting process using said second code.

--112. (New) An information signal reproducing method for reproducing information signals to which medium-related information has been added and which are recorded on a recording medium having formed thereon an area different from an area for recording the information signals and in which the medium-related information is recorded, or having a unit accompanying the recording medium in which the medium-related information is recorded, the method comprising:

an information reading step of reading the medium-related information from one of the recording medium and the unit accompanying the recording medium;

an information signal reading step of reading the information signals from the recording medium;

an additional information detecting step of detecting the additional information added to the information signals on the

basis of the medium-related information read by information reading step; and

a controlling step for prohibiting the reproduction of the information signals if the additional information added to the information signals is not detected by the additional information detecting step.

--113. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 112, wherein the information signals recorded on the recording medium are signals to which the additional information enciphered by using the medium-related information is added, and

the additional information detecting step comprises a step of detecting the additional information added to the information signals from the information signal reading step by decoding the enciphered additional information using the medium-related information from the information reading step.

--114. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 112, which comprises an information signal erasing step of erasing the information signals recorded on the recording medium when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals by the additional information detecting step.

--115. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 112, further comprising a step of informing a user that the information signals are not reproduced when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals by the additional information detecting step.

--116. (New) An information signal reproducing method for reproducing information signals to which device-related information related to a recording method has been added and which are recorded on a recording medium, the reproducing method comprising the steps of:

obtaining device-related information related to the reproducing method for use in reproducing the information signals;

reading the information signals from the recording medium;
detecting the device-related information added to the information signals from the information signal obtained in the step of reading;

determining whether the device-related information from the step of obtaining is consistent with the device-related information detected by the step of detecting; and

controlling reproduction of the information signals only when results of the step of determining indicate that the method-related information from the device-related information from the step of obtaining step is consistent with the

device-related information detected by the step of detecting.

--117. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 116, further comprising a step of setting an auxiliary recording medium, wherein

the step of obtaining method-related information comprises obtaining the method-related information from the auxiliary recording medium set in the step of setting.

--118. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 116, wherein the device-related information added to the information signals is spectrum-spread and superimposed on the information signals, and wherein

the step of detecting comprises picking up the device-related information spectrum-spread and superimposed on the information signals by inverse spectrum-spreading.

--119. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 116, wherein the device-related information added to the information signals is added as a minute level signal and

the a step of detecting comprises picking up device-related information added to the information signals as the minute level signal.

--120. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 116, wherein the additional information added to the information signals is enciphered and added to the information signals, and wherein

the step of detecting comprises extracting and decoding the device-related information enciphered and added to the information signals, so as to pickup the device-related information added to the information signals.

--121. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 116, further comprising the step of erasing the information signals recorded on the recording medium when the determined result from the step of determining indicates that the device-related information from the step of obtaining is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the step of detecting.

--122. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 116, further comprising the step of informing a user that the information signals are not reproduced when the determined result from the determining step indicates that the device-related information from the step of obtaining is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the step of detecting.

--123. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 116, wherein the device-related information added to the information signals is superimposed on the information signals using a first code, and

said step of detecting comprises
providing second code identical with said first code, and
detecting the device-related information superimposed on the information signal by processing a detecting process using said second code.

--124. (Amended) An information signal reproducing method for reproducing information signals to which device-related information related to a recording device has been added and which are recorded on a recording medium, the reproducing method comprising the steps of:

obtaining the device-related information related to a recording device for use in recording the information signals;
reading the information signals from the recording medium;
detecting the additional information added to the information signals from the step of reading on the basis of the device-related information obtained by the step of obtaining; and
controlling reproduction of the information signals only when the additional information added to the information signals is detected by the step of detecting.

--125. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 124, further comprising step of setting an auxiliary recording medium, wherein

the step of obtaining step comprises obtaining the device-related information from the auxiliary recording medium set in the step of setting.

--126. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 124, wherein the additional information added to the information signals is generated by using the device-related information as an enciphering key to carry out enciphering, and wherein

the step of detecting comprises detecting the additional information added to the information signals obtained from the step of reading by using the device-related information from the step of obtaining as a decoding key to carry out decoding.

--127. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 124, further comprising the step of erasing the information signals recorded on the recording medium when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals obtained from the detecting.

--128. (New) The information signal reproducing method according to claim 124, further comprising the step of informing

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a user that the information signals are not reproduced when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals obtained from the step of detecting.

--129. (New) An information signal recording/reproducing method including a recording process for recording information signalson a recording medium and a reproducing process for reproducing the information signals recorded on the recording medium, wherein

the recording comprises

a recording-side device-related information obtaining step of obtaining device-related information related to a recording device used for recording the information signals,

an additional information conversion step of converting additional information on the basis of the device-related information from the recording-side device-related information obtaining step,

an information adding step of adding the additional information converted in the additional information conversion step to the information signals, and

a recording step of recording the information signals to which additional information has been added by the information adding step on the recording medium; and

the reproducing process comprises

a reproducing-side device-related information obtaining step

of obtaining device-related information related to a reproducing device used for reproducing the information signals,

an information signal reading step of reading the information signals from the recording medium,

an additional information detecting step of detecting the additional information added to the information signals from the information signal reading step on the basis of the device-related information obtained in the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining step; and

a control step for prohibiting the reproduction of the information signals if the additional information added to the information signals is not detected by the additional information detecting step, wherein

when the information signals are recorded on the recording medium, in the additional information conversion step the additional information is converted by using the device-related information from the device-related information obtaining step as an enciphering key to carry out enciphering, and,

when the information signals recorded on the recording medium are reproduced, in the additional information detecting step the additional information added to the information signals from the information signal reading step is detected by using the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information reading step as a decoding key to carry out decoding.

--130. (New) The information signal recording/ reproducing method according to claim 129, further comprising an information signal erasing step of erasing the information signals recorded on the recording medium when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals in the additional information detecting step.

--131. (New) The information signal recording/ reproducing method according to claim 108, further comprising an informing step of informing a user that the information signals are not reproduced when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals by means of the additional information detecting step.

--132. (New) An information signal processing method for use with an output device for outputting information signals and a reproducing device for reproducing the information signals

comprising the outputting steps of:

obtaining output-side device-related information related to the output device,

adding the device-related information obtained by the output-side device-related information obtaining step to the information signals;

outputting the information signals to which the device-related information has been added by the information adding

step; and

the reproducing steps of comprising:

obtaining reproducing-side device-related information related to the reproducing device for reproducing the information signals;

inputting the information signals;

detecting the device-related information added to the information signals in the information signal inputting step;

determining whether the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining step is consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting step; and

the reproduction of the information signals if the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining step is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the detecting step.

--133. (New) The information signal processing method according to claim 132, wherein the outputting steps further comprises an output-side auxiliary outputting step relating to an auxiliary output, and wherein

the step of obtaining output-side device-related information comprises obtaining the device-related information from the

auxiliary output set in the out side auxiliary outputting step,
and

the reproducing steps further comprise reproducing a
reproducing-side auxiliary output wherein

the step of obtaining reproducing-side device-related
information comprises obtaining the device-related information
from the auxiliary output.

--134. (New) The information processing method according to
claim 132, wherein the outputting steps further comprise
spectrum-spreading the device-related information from the step
of obtaining, wherein

the step of adding in the outputting steps comprises
superimposing the device-related information spectrum-spread by
the step of spectrum-spreading on the information signals to be
output, and

the step of detecting in the reproducing steps comprise
picking up the device-related information spectrum-spread and
superimposed on the information signals by inverse spectrum-
spreading.

--135. (New) The3, wherein the outputting steps further
comprise converting the device-related information from the step
of obtaining output-side device-related information into a minute
level signal, wherein

the step of adding comprises adding the device-related information converted into the minute level signal by step of converting to the information signals to be output, and

the step of detecting means in the reproducing steps comprises picking up device-related information added to the information signals, as the minute level signal.

--136. (New) The information signal processing method according to claim 132, wherein the outputting steps further comprise enciphering the device-related information from the output-side device-related information obtained in the step of obtaining, wherein

the step of adding means in the outputting steps comprises adding the device-related information enciphered by the step of enciphering to the information signals to be output, and

the step of detecting in the reproducing steps comprises extracting and decoding the device-related information enciphered and added to the information signals, so as to pick up the device-related information added to the information signals.

--137. (New) The information signal processing method according to claim 132, wherein the reproducing steps further comprise blocking the information signals from being reproduced when the determined result from the step of determining indicates that the device-related information from the step of obtaining

reproducing-side device-related information is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the step of detecting.

--138. (New) The information signal processing method according to claim 132, wherein the reproducing steps further comprise informing a user that the information signals are not reproduced when the determined result from the step of determining indicates that the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtained in the step of obtaining is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the step of detecting.

--139. (New) The information signal processing method according to claim 132, wherein the reproducing steps further comprise informing a user that the information signals are not reproduced when the determined result from the step of determining indicates that the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtained in the step of obtaining is not consistent with the device-related information detected by the step of detecting.

--140. (New) The information signal processing method according to claim 132, wherein
said step of adding comprises

providing first code, and
 superimposing the device-related information obtained in the
 step of obtaining using said first code, and
 said step of detecting comprises
 providing second code identical with said first code, and
 detecting the device-related information superimposed on the
 information signal by processing a detecting process using said
 second code.

--141. (New) An information signal processing method having
 an output device for outputting information signals and a
 reproducing device for reproducing the information signals,

comprising outputting steps of:

obtaining output-side device-related information related to
 the output device;

converting additional information on the basis of the
 device-related information from the output-side device-related
 information obtaining step;

adding the additional information converted by the
 additional information converting step to the information
 signals; and

outputting the information signals to which the additional
 information is added by the information adding step; and

comprising reproducing steps of:

obtaining reproducing-side device-related information

related to the reproducing device for reproducing the information signals;

inputting the information signals;

detecting the additional information added to the information signals from the information signal inputting step on the basis of the device-related information obtained by the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining step; and

prohibiting the reproduction of the information signals if the additional information added to the information signals is not detected by the additional information detecting step.

--142. (New) the information signal processing method according to claim 141, wherein the outputting steps further comprise an output-side auxiliary outputting step relating to an auxiliary output, wherein

the step of obtaining output-side device-related information comprises obtaining the device-related information from the auxiliary output set in the output-side auxiliary outputting step,

the reproducing steps further comprises reproducing a reproducing-side auxiliary output, and

the step of obtaining reproducing-side medium-related information comprises obtaining the device-related information from the auxiliary output set in the reproducing-side auxiliary output setting step.

--143. (New) The information signal processing method according to claim 141, wherein the output-side step of converting additional information comprises using the device-related information from the output-side device-related information obtaining step as an enciphering key so as to convert the additional information, and wherein

the additional information detecting step in the reproducing steps comprises detecting the additional information added to the information signals from the step of adding by using the device-related information from the reproducing-side device-related information obtaining step as a decoding key to carry out decoding.

--144. (New) The information signal processing method according to claim 141, wherein the reproducing steps further comprise blocking the information signals output in the outputting steps from being reproduced when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals by the additional information detecting step.

--145. (New) The information signal processing method according to claim 141, wherein the reproducing steps further comprise informing a user that the information signals are not reproduced when the additional information cannot be detected from the information signals by the additional information

detecting step.

REMARKS

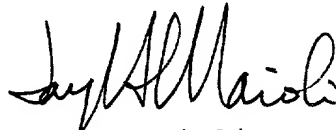
Claims 1-75 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 76-145 have been substituted therefor.

This application is a division of application serial no. 09/131,095 filed August 7, 1998. That parent application was allowed by the Notice of Allowance mailed April 12, 2001.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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